

A National Journal article by Coral Davenport in the September 22, 2011 issue referenced this meeting.

But unlike the auto industry, the coal consuming industries refused to negotiate.

Instead, and let me quote from the article, they:

“banded together with the Republican Party to strategize, and the 2010 midterm elections offered the perfect battleground. The companies invested heavily in campaigns to elect tea party candidates crusading against the role of Big Government. Industry groups (like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce), tea party groups with deep ties to polluters (like Americans for Prosperity), and so-called super PACs (like Karl Rove’s American Crossroads) spent record amounts to help elect the new House Republican majority.

My colleagues, this bill presents a false choice, peddled by an industry that refuses to clean up its act.

This bill serves the interest of no one but a few CEOs who refuse to accept responsibility to the harm their operations have imposed on the rest of us.

It needs to be defeated.

I implore my colleagues to vote “no.”

TRIBUTE TO DR. FRENCH B. HARMON

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend and role model, Dr. French B. Harmon, and to celebrate his fifth year serving at First Baptist Somerset on October 21st, 2012. Dr. Harmon has showed tremendous leadership and involvement in the Somerset community, substantially increasing the Church’s membership within the last year, and strongly connecting with his congregation.

Throughout his life, Dr. Harmon has always pursued learning. After graduating from Paul Blazer high school in Ashland, KY, he attended Marshall University, from where he received his Bachelor’s degree. Seeking to continue his education further, Dr. Harmon went on to receive degrees from University of Louisville (MA in Education), Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv and ThM), and Reformed Theological Seminary (DMin). Dr. Harmon has had a wealth of experience as a Christian leader, starting from his days in college as the Baptist Student Union President to becoming a Campus Minister to Pikeville College and Prestonsburg Community College.

Dr. Harmon has been a strong leader in our community, organizing various mission trips that have greatly benefited those around him. This past June, Dr. Harmon led the First Baptist Somerset Church on a mission trip to Magoffin County after the town of West Liberty had been ravaged by multiple deadly tornadoes this past March. Harmon took a team of church members and a large load of building supplies to work on damaged homes, repair roofs, rebuild porches, and help get people back on their feet.

Harmon has also stood up to the prescription drug epidemic in eastern Kentucky and has done his best to shed light on the issue.

This past May he helped organize and lead the first “Pulaski Cares March for Hope” to spotlight the drug problem in the region and bring hope to those who were struggling with drug abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. French B. Harmon, for his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the Somerset community.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF BROOKLYN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Brooklyn, Ohio. Brooklyn Township was founded in 1818, became Brooklyn Village in 1927 and in 1950 the City of Brooklyn was established.

The City of Brooklyn is home to many firsts in the U.S. In 1966, it became the first city to establish a seatbelt law. In 1999, it enacted the country’s first law to prevent cell phone usage while driving. Brooklyn High School’s auditorium hosted Elvis Presley’s first concert in the northern U.S. on October 20, 1955. Brooklyn is also home to a Hugo Boss Plant and the world headquarters of American Greetings and the popular Memphis Kiddie Park.

Today, the City of Brooklyn is home to approximately 11,000 residents who are led by Mayor Richard Balbier. Mayor Balbier who has been serving as mayor since 2009 had previously served as the president of the Brooklyn City Council. There are six members on the City Council: Colleen Coyne Gallagher, Anthony DeMarco, Tom Murphy, Ron Van Kirk, Kathleen Pucci and Kevin Tanski.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the City of Brooklyn and all of its residents.

CELEBRATING APAIT HEALTH CENTER’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate APAIT Health Center, serving my 34th Congressional District, on their 25th anniversary.

Since 1987, APAIT Health Center (formerly known as Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team) has worked to fulfill its mission of positively impacting the quality of life for medically underserved communities living with or at risk for HIV/AIDS and other health disparities through a seamless continuum of culturally competent and linguistically appropriate programs in Southern California.

APAIT Health Center is a distinctly critical service provider for those living with HIV/AIDS and members of the LGBTQ community in the greater Los Angeles area. The agency serves clientele from diverse communities, including Asian and Pacific Islanders (API), Latinos, and African Americans.

In its 25 year history, APAIT Health Center has become the largest provider of HIV/AIDS

services to API communities in Southern California, having served tens of thousands of individuals.

APAIT continues to respond this year with the opening of a community health clinic in the vibrant Pico Union/Westlake area, a community with scarce health options for those who are low-income and uninsured.

Private sector partnerships are also part of APAIT Health Center’s portfolio. APAIT Health Center has been the recipient of grants from Kaiser Permanente, John and Johnson, and the California endowment, to name a few. In addition, APAIT Health Center and its staff have received awards and commendations from local, state, and national entities, from the City of Los Angeles to the White House.

APAIT’s proudest achievement, however, is consistently receiving high marks from their client satisfaction surveys. The most recent survey revealed 93 percent of clients feel their quality of life has improved since seeking services with APAIT Health Center.

I once again congratulate APAIT Health Center on the celebration of their 25th anniversary. I thank them for their continued service to the Los Angeles community, and for the help they provide to those in need.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. HOWARD MONROE FITTS, JR. ON THE OCCASION OF THE 38TH ANNUAL DURHAM NAACP FREEDOM FUND AND AWARDS BANQUET

HON. G. K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2012

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Howard Monroe Fitts, Jr. on his recognition as a Freedom Fund Honoree by the Durham Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. Dr. Fitts will receive this recognition next month in appreciation of his advocacy for civil rights and his diligent public service to the Durham community.

Mr. Speaker, after completing a baccalaureate degree in biology at North Carolina Central University, NCCU, Dr. Fitts served as Teacher and Principal in Wilson County Public Schools. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942 and served faithfully for three years before being honorably discharged in 1945 at the close of World War II. After the war, Dr. Fitts returned to academia where he earned a master’s degree in Public Health Education in 1946, and a doctorate degree in Health Education from Columbia University in 1961.

His involvement with the NAACP is deeply rooted, stemming back to his childhood when he worked alongside his father to sell the organization’s official magazine, Crisis. During that time, the young Dr. Howard Fitts was exposed to movements led by the church, health agencies, and other civil rights organizations. This exposure made an indelible impression on him, leading to his active participation and advocacy within the Durham community. As a result, Dr. Fitts quickly rose to leadership positions in the NAACP and the influential Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, DCABP.

Among many of his most notable work include his key involvement in the desegregation of the Durham’s public school system,